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COMMUNIQUE


**Students
report from
Fukushima,
Japan**
Page 6-7

WHAT'S INSIDE

Our new Pollner profs 2
Dean's message 3
Löwisch bids school adieu 5
MJR at Standing Rock 8
Student projects 6-11
Graduate program 9
Faculty updates 12
Tompkins joins faculty 13
Student awards 14
Alumni obituaries 16
Class Notes 20
Honoring our donors 25

CALLING ALL ALUMS

We hope to see you at Homecoming on Oct. 13 in Don Anderson Hall. We'll host an Alumni Roundtable at 2 p.m., followed by a reception at 3.

A photograph of a man in a light blue lab coat and a white surgical mask, standing behind vertical metal bars. He is reaching forward with his right hand towards a small object, likely an ID card. In the background, another person in a blue uniform is partially visible. The setting appears to be a secure area, possibly a laboratory or a power plant.

A worker at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in Japan reaches for his ID card before passing through security earlier this summer. See the story on page 6.

Veteran editor, former news correspondent named 2017-18 Pollner Professors

Carpenter cut her teeth in newspapers, Potter as a reporter for CNN and CBS

The Washington, D.C., bureau chief for McClatchy newspapers and a former CBS and CNN national news correspondent will be the T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professors at the University of Montana School of Journalism for the 2017-18 academic year.

Cheryl Carpenter, who will teach at UM this fall, became bureau chief for McClatchy in 2015 after serving for 10 years as the managing editor of *The Charlotte Observer* in North Carolina. McClatchy owns newspapers in every sector of the country, including *The Miami Herald*, *Kansas City Star*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Tacoma News-Tribune* and *Idaho Statesman*.

Deborah Potter, the spring 2018 Pollner professor, covered the White House, State Department and Capitol Hill for CBS News from 1981-91 and reported on national politics and the environment for CNN from 1991-94. She is the president and executive director of NewsLab, a research and training organization for journalists that she helped to found in 1998.

The professorship is named after T. Anthony Pollner, a UM journalism graduate who died in 2001. An endowment supported by his family and friends allows the school to bring leading journalists to UM for a semester to teach a course and mentor the staff of the *Montana Kaimin*, the student

newspaper. More than two dozen distinguished journalists, including several Pulitzer Prize winners, have spent a semester teaching at the journalism school since the program's inception.

Carpenter has overseen many investigations, most recently McClatchy's partnership with news organizations worldwide examining the Panama Papers, documents that showed thousands of offshore investors were engaged in fraud, tax evasion and avoidance of international sanctions. She will teach a course on the ethical and practical issues reporters face, particularly when dealing with leaked documents. Carpenter holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a master's degree in organizational development from Queens University in Charlotte, and was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 2005, studying ethics and leadership.

Potter has extensive journalism experience in both radio and television, from the local to the national levels. In addition to working as a correspondent for both CBS and CNN, she was a contributor and host for several PBS programs. At NewsLab, she leads workshops for journalists in the United States and around the world, focusing on reporting and writing the news, social media, online and visual storytelling and journalism ethics. She has been a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina and the University of Arkansas, and she was on the faculty at the Poynter Institute and American University. She will teach a course on journalism and the public trust. Potter holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree from American University in Washington, D.C.



DEBORAH POTTER



CHERYL CARPENTER

This year's annual Pollner Lecture is scheduled for 7 p.m., Oct. 16., at the University Center Theater.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Everywhere I go, people ask me the same question: Have the results of last fall's election sparked a renewed interest in journalism? At the risk of using a forbidden cliché, it's too soon to tell. But it is pretty clear recent attacks on the media have lit a welcome fire under our students and our supporters as well. As a result, we feel instruction at the J-School is more engaged than ever.

Alums of the J-School appreciate the value of the media, but it's easy for the average citizen to lose sight of the role we play. President Trump's decision to label the media "an enemy of the people" helped shake many news consumers out of their complacency, and I have received many heartfelt "thank yous" from people who showed up at J-School events to express their concern about the threats journalism faces. Some share that they have been disappointed in the media—most notably, by the failure to anticipate the election of President Trump—but now realize that democracy without a news industry is unthinkable.

I get the same sense from our students. Many have recognized anew that they are not just training for a job; they are preparing for a profession that will put them at the center of social controversy. We will have to wait and see whether this new sense of purpose leads to increased enrollment. Either way, the past year has underscored the value of attending a journalism school that emphasizes "learning by doing."

No matter what the White House says about us, our students and faculty will



Dean Abramson addresses students during the school's annual Montana High School Day.

have plenty to keep us busy in the coming school year. Professor Lee Banville is rolling out a new sequence of courses focused on social media and audience engagement. Joe Eaton will be launching a new investigative project, in collaboration with Lee Enterprises. And of course, many of us will be getting ready for a visit from our accrediting body, the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. Preparing for a site visit is a lot of work, but the self-study process is a great opportunity to re-examine our curriculum and think about whether we are delivering on our promises to our students. That's a good thing.

The toughest part about the coming year is that it will be our first in a long

time without Professor Henriette Löwisch, who is leaving us to lead her alma mater, the renowned Deutsche Journalistenschule in Germany. But there will also be a new face on the fourth floor: Kevin Tompkins joins our broadcast faculty this fall, after many decades at KREM 2 News in Spokane. He replaces Ray Ekness, who left us in 2016 to run the Broadcast Media Center on campus. Kevin made a big splash during an initial stint as an adjunct professor this past spring, and he already feels like part of the family.

Best wishes,

Dean Larry Abramson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Abramson".

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Paul Queneau '02

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Send news and Class Notes to:

Communiqué
UM School of Journalism
Don Anderson Hall
Missoula, MT 59812
406-243-4001

Contact us:

email: journalism@mso.umt.edu
Visit us at: jour.umt.edu
Facebook and Twitter: @umjschool

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MONTANA
Journalism
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Pollner Professors McCoy and Bailey make strong impression on J-School, the Kaimin

It's hard to tell who benefits most from the Pollner Professorship: the students, the faculty or the Pollner professors themselves. That's exactly how it's supposed to work.

"In the end, I learned more from the *Kaimin* students about running a newsroom than I ever learned in 'real world' newsrooms," said spring Pollner Professor Anne Bailey, who taught a seminar on short-form video and advised the *Montana Kaimin*. "And I like to think the students learned more from me in the classroom about pushing traditional boundaries of visual journalism than they ever thought possible."

Melissa McCoy, our fall Pollner Professor and a longtime editor at *The Los Angeles Times*, found inspiration to keep teaching.

"What they taught me in those four months was that I had so much more to share than I knew, and that they genuinely wanted me to share it," she wrote after the semester ended. "As longtime profession-

als, our skills become second nature. We know so many of the answers because we've already made so many of the mistakes that allowed us to gain our expertise."

McCoy's fall seminar, which focused on telling difficult stories, prompted award-winning reporting. But her work with the *Kaimin*, especially after the November election, pushed its reporters to recognize the value of vigilance and verification. Their best work, she told them, was still to come.

"They had chosen a calling that pushed them to ask questions, find answers and bring understanding to the chaos," McCoy wrote. "The J-School and its professors had equipped them, and they were ready to be the next generation of storytellers."

For Bailey M.A. '08, like former Pollner professors Karen Coates '93 and Kevin Van Valkenburg '00, the Pollner semester felt like coming home. After nearly 10 years of teaching and reporting across the globe, she

aimed to free young video reporters to be "more creative, more experimental and more conceptual" in their storytelling. Her students, she reported, went from timid about the work at first to daring by semester's end.

Advising the *Kaimin* tested her confidence at first, but by watching students work, she learned where she could fit in, be it as an adviser, editor or occasional counselor.

"In 15 short weeks, the *Kaimin* team took its website from average to impressive," she wrote. "They produced quality graphics and videos, in-depth reporting and writing, and powerful photography. And not because of me. Because they motivated and inspired each other in ways I've rarely seen students do."

Bailey promises to stay in touch, and so does McCoy, who has since represented the School of Journalism on spring recruiting trips to Washington and in her home state of California.



MELISSA MCCOY



ANNE BAILEY

Löwisch returns to Germany to direct its top professional journalism school

Professor's 11 years at the J-School broke new ground for graduate program, MJR

The School of Journalism bid farewell this spring to Associate Professor Henriette Löwisch, who inspired students to embrace a wider world and think creatively and critically about their fast-changing profession.

She leaves to become director of Munich's Deutsche Journalistenschule, one of her native Germany's finest journalism programs and the school where she received her own professional training.

Löwisch was a veteran foreign correspondent and editor for Agence-France Press before she came to UM in 2006 as a Distinguished Pollner Professor. Three years later she joined the permanent faculty as an associate professor and director of the J-School's fledgling master's program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism.

"The J-School, its students and faculty and friends taught me pretty much everything I know about teaching and academia, from the day I first landed in Missoula as the T. Anthony Pollner professor," she said.

Over the years, undergraduates raved about her Global Current Events course, and her reinvention of the J-School's Montana Journalism Review broke new ground with its media coverage of news such as the Standing Rock protests last year against the Dakota Access Pipeline project in North Dakota.

She encouraged her graduate students to explore the human angles in their environmental coverage. Graduates of the program now work across the nation and around the world. She encouraged Americans to uphold the nation's constitution and called on journalists to ask better questions. She also helped scientists become better communicators.

Berlin-based freelancer Shane Thomas McMillan was a student photojournalist when he met Henriette during her semester as a Pollner professor and adviser to the



Nowhere to hide: Henriette endures the faculty's musical farewell at Dean Stone Night.

Kaimin. She raised his sights, he said.

"Henriette had this way of looking at what I was doing, or what we in the paper were doing, and knowing exactly how to critique it in a way that would help us grow," he said. "That skill is something that she did across the board in all of her years at UM, and it has brought the school and its students to questions, styles, approaches and solutions that no other person could have.

"Without Henriette, my life would have played out very differently. As I was about to graduate from UM, she gave me a shove in the direction of Berlin. Now, almost seven years later, I am still there."

Löwisch began her career as a reporter for her hometown paper in the Black Forest. She was a freelance writer for a German women's magazine and an assistant news producer for Austrian television before joining AFP in 1992. She served the international wire service as senior editor, Berlin bureau chief, Brussels correspondent, U.S. correspondent and foreign editor.

She received her professional training at Deutsche Journalistenschule in Munich and earned her graduate diploma from the University of Munich. She also studied in the United States.

"What I learned in Montana will be hugely helpful for the new challenge of running a German J-School, which was founded after World War II and modeled on the 'teaching hospital' approach to journalism education that UM practices so successfully," she said.

Löwisch, the author of the German edition of "Journalism for Dummies," split her Montana years between homes in Berlin and Missoula.

"I will miss the open-minded and dedicated crew at the J-School more than you can imagine, and hope I can come back to visit often," she said.

Uncovering Fukushima

Students visit Japan to report on the recovery after tsunami, nuclear disaster

Mid-morning on a sunny day in Japan, 14 J-School students and three mentors put on white gloves and attached radiation counters to their press passes. The group normally carried backpacks full of recording equipment, but on this day was allowed only one camera for the party and no recording devices as they boarded a bus to the Fukushima Daiichi power plant.

Sydney MacDonald, the designated photographer, had to get permission to shoot out the bus window. The primary concern seemed to be facility security—staff did not want photos showing fences and security cameras.

It wasn't the first time journalism students had gone abroad. Previous trips took students to India to report on wildlife conservation at tiger preserves, and to Germany to cover the Syrian refugee crisis.

In 2017, professors Nadia White and Denise Dowling led a trip to Japan to cover the on-going consequences of the Great East Japan earthquake of March 11, 2011, which triggered tsunami waves up to 130 feet high and a nuclear meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant.

Despite the extensive damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami, the only victims who received compensation were those hit by nuclear fallout. Six years later, the Japanese government was finishing decontamination projects and encouraging residents to return home. Many still feared the radiation, while others had established new lives elsewhere.

Covering the aftermath of the 3/11 triple disaster, the J-School class adopted the slogan, "UM to Fukushima: Finding Home After Fallout." And once again, students reported their research, findings and experiences from start to finish, posting their articles, images and videos to a class website created for their trip.

They spent two semesters preparing for the three-week trip to Japan in late May. As professors solidified the itinerary, students researched the issues, learned about Japanese culture and made contacts for their stories.



A Tokyo Electric Power Company employee holds a portable radiation measurement device used to calculate the amount of radiation inside the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station.

The previous summer, Professor White reached out to Keiji Fujimoto, a J-School alum from Japan and a freelance photojournalist, who agreed to become the trip's in-country director. He took several trips to the affected areas and worked with White to line up reporting contacts and transportation.

Finally, the students landed in Tokyo a week after the spring semester ended. They met with Japanese journalists and foreign correspondents from *The New York Times* and *The Independent* who had covered 3/11 events.

With a better understanding of the challenges before them, the students took 5 a.m. trains to fish markets, searching for products from Fukushima, and interviewed people who had relocated after the disaster.

After a week in Tokyo, the group traveled to Fukushima prefecture to view coastal villages hit by the tsunami and other areas contaminated by radiation from the nuclear meltdown.



Students and trip leaders listen to stories of rebuilding told by a resident of Ishinomaki. The town on a peninsula east of Sendai suffered the greatest loss of life of any municipality due to the tsunami, with about 4,000 residents killed or missing.

Inside the no-go zone, 10 kilometers outside the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, towns had been abandoned. Plants sprouted through cracks in the concrete, metal fences barred residents from their former homes, and security guards monitored highway traffic through the high-risk zone.

Students toured the power plant and interviewed fisherman, farmers and people living in temporary housing until radiation



Parker Seibold

A young Japanese woman wields a microphone to protest nuclear power generation and nuclear weapons. The protests are a weekly affair outside the Diet, Japan's national assembly.

levels diminish.

In the trip's final week, the group moved north along the coast to the city of Sendai, which escaped the fallout but not the earthquake or the tsunami.

The scientific and medical advances being made as part of the recovery efforts provided great story ideas for graduate students in the J-School's Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism program. The trip culminated in a public presentation of the group's work at Tohoku University.

—Jana Wiegand

You can watch, listen and read the students' stories on the J-School website or at www.mtjournalabroad.wixsite.com/umtofukushima

Also visit the Montana Journalism Abroad accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Next year's trip? South Korea.



Sydney MacDonald

For three weeks, 14 students studied the effects of Japan's triple disaster in 2011.

MJR produces award-winning web special on Standing Rock

‘Framing a Movement’ analyzes how media covered historic protests



Snow dusts Atquetzali Quiroz as she walks back to the camp.

Montana Journalism Review issued a special report in 2016, analyzing how the media covered the Standing Rock movement against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The interactive website, titled “Framing a Movement,” was built by a team of student journalists under the leadership of senior Kathleen Stone. It won SPJ Region 10 awards for “Best Affiliated Website” and “Best Online In-Depth Reporting.”

Professor Jason Begay, graduate students Matt Roberts and Lailani Upham and senior Olivia Vanni made an initial 12-hour trip to the North Dakota protest site in September. They spent time with local reporters, news gatherers from national organizations and social media activists. As the semester and protests progressed, MJR sent reporters to the camps two more times, once at the beginning of November and again in early December. They witnessed altercations between protesters and law enforcement, and experienced competing efforts to control the narrative first-hand.

With videos, photo slideshows, an interactive timeline and multiple print stories, the special report offered a multidimensional wealth of information. The format was a first for the annual magazine published under the supervision of faculty members Keith Graham and Henriette Löwisch.

View MJR’s stories in the printed magazine or at mjr.jour.umn.edu



Police watch as protesters try to put out an accidental fire that started during the standoff at Turtle Hill, North Dakota, on Nov. 6, 2016.

Graduate students cover the globe to report on science and natural resource problems

Graduate students followed stories from Brazil to Alaska in pursuit of the professional projects and portfolios that cap their two-year course of study at the University of Montana School of Journalism.

Wisconsin-native **Jana Wiegand** covered the public health crisis that unfolded when a tailings dam failure unleashed Brazil's worst environmental accident in 2015.

Courtney Gerard and **Madison Dapceвич** reported on very different efforts to formalize Native American governance over conservation issues. Gerard looked at efforts by the Chumash Tribe to reshape the debate over a marine reserve off the

coast of central California. Dapceвич considered how anthropologists examining the site of an ancient Dena'ina Alaska Native village on the Kenai Peninsula are working more closely with Kena'itze tribal members.

Meanwhile, **Ben Polley** reported on tensions over protecting a wild wedge of land adjacent to Canada's Waterton National Park. The land represents a crucial link in the biodiversity of the region's animal and plant life.

Mona Nazeri applied her doctorate in remote sensing to create interactive

maps that enriched stories of the effect of climate change on wildfire and elk migration. The data-rich project was a first of its kind for the program. She also told the story of Montana's Roaring Lion wildfire.

Montana's Graduate Program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism is a two-year professional program that offers practical and ethical training, which carries graduates into careers in science and environmental reporting in the news media and beyond. The program is entering its eighth year.



Hikers walk a ridge overlooking wildlands adjacent to Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park. Conservationists hope to protect the lands as a crucial link in a biologically diverse corridor stretching from Yellowstone to the Yukon.

Native News goes deep into Indian Health Service

The 2017 Native News Honors Project tackled one of the most notoriously tight-lipped organizations in Indian Country: The Indian Health Service.

Carried as an insert in *The Missoulian* and *The Billings Gazette* on May 20, the publication is currently available online at www.nativenews.jour.umt.edu. It focused on the Indian Health Service and its shortcomings in meeting the federal treaty promise to provide health care to Native Americans.

The work was the product of teams of student writers, photographers, videographers and editors under the guidance of Associate Professors Jason Begay and Jeremy Lurgio.

Students visited each of Montana's seven far-flung tribal reservations—often more than once.

The class titled this 26th edition of the Native News project “For the benefit, care and assistance...,” quoting a phrase from the federal legislation that led to the creation of the IHS. Students produced text, photos and videos to support their articles on how Montana's Indian Country has made do with the lack of funding from the IHS system.

“Everyone is talking about access to health care right now,” said Begay. “It's a perfect year to look at the provider for so many Native Americans.”



‘Meth Effect’ reveals the drug’s comeback

Students from the Advanced Audio and Online Journalism classes joined forces this spring to explore the crisis of methamphetamine use in Montana.

The project sent students to cities and towns across the state to understand meth addiction and the impact drug use is having on social services and justice systems. They explored how meth use has helped drive a 400 percent increase in the number of children in foster care, the work of undercover agents seeking to stem the flow of meth into Montana and efforts to expand access to treatment.

“There has been a lot of reporting on individual crimes or overburdened government agencies, but we wanted to try and capture the full breadth of ways the influx of meth into Montana has affected people and places,” said Associate Professor Lee Banville.

In addition to reporting on meth, the classes also served as an experiment in ways to create more effective social media campaigns and digital presentations of audio stories.

“As popular as podcasts are, digital sharing of audio content is still a major hurdle for producers,” Associate Professor Jule Banville said. “The Meth Effect allowed our students to, yes, produce the stories, but to also think smarter and better about their audiences.”

The result included a multimedia website at metheffect.com, an hour-long radio special on Montana Public Radio and a series that ran in many newspapers around the state.



A crystal of meth.

Student documentary considers the toll of prescription drug abuse

A group of dedicated UM seniors spent spring semester crafting a documentary television program on the dangers and monumental challenges of prescription drug abuse in Montana. Produced by Mederios Whitworth-Babb and directed by Derek Minemyer, “Montana Rx—Unintended Consequences” tells the story of Montanans who witnessed and have suffered from the scourge of drug abuse.

The students reported startling statistics about Montanans and opioids. For instance, Montana teenagers rank third in the nation for prescription drug abuse, and enough opioid prescriptions are written in the United States to supply every adult in the nation. The team found Montanans willing to share their stories of loss and heartbreak, and also found hope in the efforts of fellow citizens to battle this epidemic.

Associate Professor Denise Dowling and Adjunct Professor John Twiggs served as faculty advisers on the project. The documentary premiered to family, friends and the community at a special screening on May 12. The program aired on MontanaPBS the following week and will appear repeatedly over the summer and into the fall.



Journalism students profile 2016 election, cover the politics, legislation it produces

Coverage showcased by statewide network of broadcasters, newspapers, websites

Students in professor Lee Banville and Dennis Swibold's fall Covering Elections course profiled statewide candidates and ballot issues, then provided Election Day coverage across Montana. They also previewed the 2017 Legislature.

Their coverage appeared statewide in newspapers big and small and on Montana Public Radio's website. Election Day coverage featured exit interviews with Montana voters and reports from Helena, most of which ran first on social media.

The class featured training on fact-checking, the evaluation of polling data and the issues central to the major races.

After the voting, the class partnered with *The Bozeman Daily Chronicle* to preview issues that were sure to get attention in the 2017 Legislature. Those stories ran in the *Chronicle*, which graciously granted other news organizations permission to run the students' coverage, too.

J-SCHOOL REPORTERS TOLD 2017 LEGISLATURE'S STORY

Under the daily editorship of Visiting Professor Courtney Cowgill, three students spent the first four months of the year in Helena, following scores of bills and relaying the big picture to a statewide audience listening to their local radio stations, reading their local newspapers or following along online.

Radio reporters Cole Grant and Freddy Monares, both seniors, provided daily coverage for commercial and public broadcast stations via the J-School's Legislative News Service. Junior Michael Siebert covered the session for dozens of papers of the Montana Newspaper Association through the school's Community News Service.

Stories also appeared on websites of online-only news organizations.

This effort, which began in the early 1990s, is supported by the Greater Montana Foundation, the Montana Broadcasters Association and the Montana Newspaper Association.



Journalism senior Cole Grant checks the levels on his portable recorder just before a press conference begins in the Capitol.



Junior Michael Siebert, left, and photographer Freddy Monares prepare to cover a speech by Gov. Steve Bullock during a rally early in the 2017 legislative session.

Associate Professor **Jule Banville** collaborated last summer with Michael Wright '15 of *The Bozeman Daily Chronicle* to report on a long-ago plane crash on Emigrant Peak in Montana's Paradise Valley. She produced a 20-minute audio documentary on the story, which she released as an episode of her podcast, "Last Best Stories." The podcast, launched in 2015, was recently featured in the magazine *Distinctly Montana*. An episode this summer will also air as a swap with Wyoming Public Radio's "HumaNature." Jule also curated an audio event at this year's Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, in which participants sipped cocktails at Montgomery Distillery while listening to audio stories she edited and produced. Jule also edited copy at the *Missoula Independent* this year, and will become the *Montana Kaimin's* faculty adviser this fall.

Associate Professor **Lee Banville's** two-volume reference work "Covering American Politics in the 21st Century: An Encyclopedia of News Media Titans, Trends, and Controversies" was published in January to positive reviews. *The Library Journal* concluded, "This work astutely and impartially details the people, movements, organizations and issues of contemporary media and its role in the political process. Verdict: A well-written primer that captures the prominence and importance of media in modern-day American politics." Banville has also become one of Montana's main political commentators, serving as a source for Montana Public Radio, Lee Newspapers and local television as well as national and international outlets like *The Guardian* and CNN. More importantly, he continues to hone his skills as a non-Olympic curler.

Associate Professor **Jason Begay**, who co-edits the school's award-winning Native News Honors Project, was awarded tenure this spring. He also completed his term as president of the Native American Journalists Association. In the fall, Begay accompanied a group of students to the Standing Rock Sioux reservation to report on how the media were covering the historic protests of the Dakota Access Pipeline. He wrote a story for both the *Montana Journalism Review* and the *Montana Standard* in

Butte. Since then, Begay has been invited to talk about Standing Rock and the media to classes across campus, and at the 2016 Excellence in Journalism conference in New Orleans, at Western Washington University and at the National High School Journalism Convention in Seattle.

Associate Professor **Denise Dowling** enjoyed getting back into the classroom after a year-long sabbatical. She co-taught UM News in the fall, where students produced several award-winning television stories. She also resumed an old partnership with KBGA College Radio and had her intermediate audio students writing and anchoring daily newscasts. In the spring, Dowling partnered with Adjunct Professor John Twiggs for the Student Documentary class, which produced "Montana Rx – Unintended Consequences." She welcomed Visiting Professor Kevin Tompkins, a long-time friend and colleague, to the J-School, and tackled the junior television news course by his side. She continues to work on her sabbatical project, an audio documentary of transgender youth in the rural West. She also joined Associate Professor Nadia White in leading this summer's UM to Fukushima study-abroad trip to Japan.

Assistant Professor **Joe Eaton** has been working on a story that explores the criminal supply side of the prescription painkiller epidemic. Reporting has taken him to a federal prison in Colorado and to Boise, Idaho, to interview the leaders of a drug-dealing ring in the city. The story will be published in the magazine *Pacific Standard* in 2017. He also published several stories about medicine and crime in *AARP the Magazine* and *The AARP Bulletin*. In his free time, he is struggling to bring a '60s sports car back from the dead and preparing for his son to start kindergarten.

Associate Professor **Ray Fanning** was on sabbatical during the spring 2017 semester to work on a multi-part audio reporting project on race in Montana, tentatively titled "Talking About Race." The inspiration for the project came from the autumn 2015 Diversity in Media class at the School of Journalism. The students in Kathy Weber Bates' course gathered six-word essays

on race from Montana students, which painted a diverse picture of racial attitudes across the state. Fanning is expanding on that concept by looking at specific racial problems, and at some groups that are trying to foster acceptance and understanding. Pieces will focus on cultural and legal perspectives, implicit bias, hate crimes and Montana's racial history. In the fall, Fanning also worked for MontanaPBS, serving as the line producer for statewide election night coverage and for the governor's "State of the State" address.

Associate Professor **Keith Graham's** year began with his work with Associate Professor Henriette Löwisch on the *Montana Journalism Review*. It ended with a photo exhibit of his project on one-room schools with collaborator Neil Chaput de Saintonge. Exhibits from the work have appeared in Missoula, Glendive, Billings and Great Falls. A book, tentatively titled "Chasing Time: Last of the Active One-Room Schools in Montana," is scheduled for publication this fall by Riverbed Publishing. Photos from the work will appear in an upcoming issue of *Big Sky Journal*. Keith also taught an array of courses in photography and design this year. His design students crafted logos, resumes, posters, *Kaimin* front pages, book covers, magazines and publicity for the Student Documentary film. He also judged the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication logo design contest, reviewed a book for the *Great Plains Quarterly* and served on UM's General Education Committee.

Associate Professor **Jeremy Lurgio** is heading with his family to New Zealand for a yearlong sabbatical. He plans on producing two in-depth multimedia stories with Māori communities in New Zealand. He will also work with faculty at Massey University to share insights on teaching students to effectively cover indigenous communities. Meanwhile, Lurgio and colleague Erik Peterson M.A. '16 are earning accolades for their documentary film, "The Hard Way," which tells the story of 89-year-old competitive runner Bob Hayes. The film was selected for film festivals around the world, including the

Banff Mountain Film Festival and the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival. It was awarded best short film at the Trail Running Film Festival and won a bronze medal for the People's Choice award at England's Sheffield Adventure Film Festival. This year Lurgio also developed a new class on smartphone storytelling.

Professor **Dennis Swibold** will complete his sixth year as the J-School's director/department chair at the end of fall semester. When he's not handling those duties, he enjoys teaching sections of the school's Ethics and Trends, Elements of News Writing, Reporting, News Editing and Covering Elections courses. He worked on Communiqué and the J-School's accreditation and program prioritization reports, and he led two search committees. As a member of the Humanities Montana's speakers' bureau, he continues to travel the state to talk about the changing news media. In his free time, he enjoys reading (mostly history and biography), searching for

lost chords on his beat-up Telecaster and tricking an occasional trout.

Associate Professor **Nadia White** led a group of students this summer to north-eastern Japan to report stories on the theme, "Fukushima: Finding home after fallout" (see related story, pg. 6). She traveled to Japan in summer 2016 and worked with photojournalist and alum Keiji Fujimoto to lay the groundwork for the trip. White became director of the J-School's graduate program beginning in summer 2017. She also teaches Story Lab, the core science reporting course in the program. This year, White is part of a \$3 million National Science Foundation grant focused on innovative approaches to studying the intersection of water, energy and food. "One of the goals of Journalism's graduate program in environmental science is to train journalists to understand the nuances and implications of cutting-edge scientific research. This grant helps create access to that inquiry," White said.

STAFF CORNER

This year's George M. Dennison Presidential Staff Award for Distinguished Accomplishment went to the J-School's **Kathleen Whetzel**, assistant to the dean. It recognizes employees who bring excellence, merit, distinction or glory to UM.

Whetzel joined the J-School staff in 2003. She has served on Staff Senate, the University Athletic Committee, the Faculty/Staff Award Planning Committee and the Inter Unit Benefits Committee, and she currently works as a UM Campus Wellness Champion. Whetzel worked as a student employee in the president's office under President George Dennison. She earned a B.A. from the School of Business Administration in 1998 and an M.A. in public administration last year.



Veteran Spokane TV producer/director joins J-School faculty

The School of Journalism welcomes longtime Spokane television producer and director Kevin Tompkins to the faculty this fall as a visiting professor. He'll be teaching full-time and working on a master's degree on his way to a tenure-track position.

Tompkins came to UM as an adjunct professor in the spring to teach courses in videography and television directing, and to oversee "News Brief," the school's nightly news update on MontanaPBS.

Tompkins is fresh from 30 years as an award-winning director and producer at KREM-TV in Spokane. Before that, he worked for four years at KDRO-TV in Colorado Springs, his hometown. He graduated from the University of Colorado in 1982 with a B.A. in communications, specializing in radio, television and film. His time in Colorado also included a stint as a linebacker on CU's football team.

Teaching has long been in Tompkins'

mind, so he jumped at the chance to teach at UM after the departure of Professor Ray Ekness, who left the J-School last August to oversee UM's public television and radio stations. Tompkins is familiar with UM's program from having worked with a number of J-School grads at KREM.

But along with the excitement came doubts, he recalled. "It was 'put up or shut up' about this thing," he said.

The acceptance he found from students was heartening and gratifying. He said he still has a lot to learn, but he's looking forward to helping students use the medium's tools to make their ideas into realities.



KEVIN TOMPKINS

"I want to show them there is a responsibility and skill that comes with being good content makers," he said. "I believe I can help in that process."

When he's not working, movies, trivia and sports are a big part of his life, but moving to Missoula has made him consider some new activities. "I'm going to buy a bike and start exploring the outdoors more," he said.

His first semester was eventful. Faculty members learned he was confident in his teaching, patient with students and calm under deadline pressure. He also raised the admittedly low bar for faculty singing at Dean Stone Night.

For that, he credits his musical family and singing with the church choir, in various high school groups and to the radio.

"Music was always around," he said. "My brothers and sister played instruments also. It helps to not be bashful."

SPJ Winners

Society of Professional Journalists
Mark of Excellence Awards

NATIONAL WINNERS

Television In-Depth Reporting

2016 Student Documentary Unit
"Aging Out: Autism in Montana"

Television Sports Photography

Peter Riley, "Cross country runner
Makena Morley"

NATIONAL FINALISTS

Television News

and Feature Photography

Tasha Cain and Chelsea Reichard

Editorial Writing

Michael Siebert
and the Kaimin Editorial Board

Sports Writing

Sojin Josephson

REGIONAL WINNERS

Feature Photography

Lacey Young

General News Photography

Adam McCaw

Sports Photography

Kira Vercruyssen

Breaking News Reporting

Olivia Vanni

Feature Writing

Kasey Bubnash

General Column Writing

Darian Dovgan

Best Affiliated Website

Montana Journalism Review

Best Independent Online Student Publication

Native News Honors Project

Online In-Depth Reporting

Kathleen Stone, Matt Roberts,
Olivia Vanni and Kira Vercruyssen

Radio News Reporting

Nora Saks

(continued on next page)

UM students earn top honors again

'Aging Out' wins top college documentary from SPJ;
school claims 7th overall in Hearst's writing contest

The J-School's 2016 student documentary "Aging Out" exposed Montana's lack of support for autistic youth as they reach adulthood. It also won first place as the nation's best collegiate documentary, as judged by the Society of Professional Journalists, and a regional Emmy.

The compelling documentary, produced under the leadership of Associate Professor Denise Dowling and Adjunct Professor John Twiggs, portrayed the struggles of several autistic Montana youths and their families as they sought options for support and independent living after age 18. It has aired regularly on MontanaPBS.

Keiko Sagami, the project's student producer, said it was incredible to be allowed into the lives of the documentary's subjects.

"The problem of aging out is such an important issue to address," Sagami said. "So many families are affected and we're proud to help represent them in their search for answers. It really was a life-changing experience that means so much to each and every one of us. We're all so honored."

The J-School also boasted SPJ awards in editorial writing and sports reporting.

Meanwhile, the J-School finished seventh nationally in the Hearst Journalism Awards Program's Intercollegiate Writing

Competition for the second straight year. The school owed its showing to senior Claire Chandler's seventh place finish in the personal profile category and Kasey Bubnash's eighth and ninth place finishes in the sports and feature reporting categories.

Other national finishers were senior Jake Green, who won ninth place in mul-

timedia enterprise reporting, and the cast of photographers, designers, writers and editors who produced the *Montana Journalism Review's* "Framing a Movement" story. The effort took 10th place in the team multimedia reporting category.

Besides winning a regional Emmy for "Aging Out," students also won Emmys in the National Academy of Television Arts' northwest region.

They include

Sagami and Dominique Giusti, for best writing ("Aging Out"), Braly Whisler and Colter Lairy for their sports story on concussions, Caryn Foehringer in the public service category for her story "Feeding the Community," and Tiffany Folkes and Mederios Babb for their video essay "Coaster Pedicab," a segment in the J-School's 2016 "Business: Made in Montana" show.

NATAS scholarship winner Maria Anderson and "Aging Out" lead photographer Andy Anderson were also honored during the regional awards ceremony.





Jordynn Paz received Lee Enterprises' Native American Scholarship at Dean Stone Night in recognition of her strong academic performance and professional promise.



Jackson Wagner and Claire Chandler received the Art Jette Memorial Award for their contributions to the Kaimin in personality, good humor and work ethic.



Kasey Bubnash (left) received the Faculty Writing and Reporting Award.

SPJ (cont.)

Radio Sports Reporting

Maria Anderson

Radio In-Depth Reporting

Meri DeMarois and Daylen Turk

Best All-Around TV Newscast

UM News

Hearst Awards

Intercollegiate Writing Competition

UM, seventh place

Personality Profile

Claire Chandler, seventh place

Sports Reporting

Kasey Bubnash, eighth place

Feature Reporting

Kasey Bubnash, ninth place

Multimedia Enterprise Reporting

Jake Green, ninth place

Multimedia Team Reporting

Montana Journalism Review
10th place

NATAS Awards

National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences - Northwest Chapter
2016 College Student Awards
for Excellence

Best Long Form Program

"Aging Out: Autism in Montana"

Best Writing

Keiko Sagami & Dominique Giust
"Aging Out: Autism in Montana"

Sports Reporting

Braly Whisler & Colter Lairy
"Athletes and Concussions"

Public Service

Caryn Foehringer
"Feeding the Community."

Video Essay

Tiffany Folkes and Mederios Babb
"Business: Made in Montana"
"Coaster Pedicab"

CELIA CHAFFIN RISEN '35, who used her journalism training in Montana to teach high school English, journalism and social studies, died Sept. 16, 2016, in Bethesda, Maryland. She was 103.

Four years after her graduation she married Isadore L. Risen, who became a Washington D.C.-based executive for the U.S. Civil Service Commission and eventually a United Nations consultant to the government of Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie I. He died in 2008.

Before the couple moved to the D.C. area, Celia earned a master's in education and taught junior high in Cincinnati, Ohio. By the mid-60s, she was teaching high school English and advising a student newspaper in Bethesda. She retired from teaching in the early '70s but could not stop. By 1985, she was teaching English to non-native speakers and serving as a docent at the Smithsonian Institution.

She had two daughters: Barbara Gottschalk, who survived her, and Penny McNamee, who did not.

SHIRLEY M. EMBODY '52, who wrote for newspapers before working at U.S. embassies across the globe, died on April 13, 2017, at her North Carolina home. She was 87.

A native of Conrad, Montana, Shirley was the youngest of 12 children. She graduated from high school in 1948 and enrolled at what was then Montana State University in Missoula, earning a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1952.

After college, she worked for the *Whitman County Gazette* newspaper in Colfax, Washington, before joining the staff of the *Sentinel* newspaper in Santa Cruz, California. After a time, she accepted a position with the American Embassy as a U.S. Civil Service employee, serving in Bangkok, Thailand, where she worked in the embassy's communication center.

She eventually worked for American embassies in Washington, D.C., London and Paris. After retiring from the Civil Service, she settled in Malaga, Spain, and spent several years working in real estate. She returned to live in New York City from 1981 through 1994, working with stock investment profiles. During this time, she also spent a year living and

studying in India.

In 1994, Shirley and her dear friend, Ann Mitchell Coley, built a home in the mountains near Waynesville, North Carolina. They continued traveling the world, visiting Greece, Italy, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Morocco, Spain and Egypt, among other places.

JOHN GILMORE BANSCH '57, veteran sports reporter and the *Indianapolis Star's* first Indianapolis Colts beat writer, died March 8, 2017. He was 81.

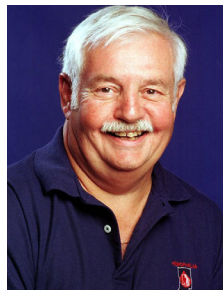
According to the Star, John was born a Hoosier on Nov. 27, 1935, in East Chicago, but spent his youth in Montana, graduating from Helena High, where he lettered in baseball, track and football. He enrolled at the University of Montana to study journalism, eventually serving as editor of the *Montana Kaimin*. He also lettered in baseball, served in the ROTC and was a member of Phi Delta Theta.

After graduation, he served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army before taking a job as a general assignment reporter for The *Great Falls Leader*.

He moved to Indianapolis in early 1958 to attend Adjutant General School, eventually serving as a personnel officer at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

He returned to Indianapolis to edit copy at the Star, moving to the sports department in 1960. He rose through the ranks, covering college sports to eventually become assistant sports editor. He covered the Rose, Sugar, Cotton and Orange bowls, NCAA Final Fours, golf, boxing, hockey and the Indy 500. When the Colts moved from Baltimore, John became the Star's beat writer. He also served 11 years on the Pro Football Hall of Fame's selection committee.

Known as "The Captain" or "Griz" to friends and coworkers, he was an ardent fan of the Montana Grizzlies. He retired in the fall of 1999 after a 41-year career at the Star, which gave him more time to



follow the Colts and the Butler Bulldogs.

His off-the-job service included serving as president of the Indianapolis Press Club, director of the Indiana Golden Gloves, secretary of his country club and member of his fraternity's Lou Gehrig Award Selection Committee.

JUDY LEE HUNT '57, a devoted homemaker and hockey mom who enjoyed sewing historical clothing, died Dec. 29, 2016, in Great Falls. She was 81.

She was born in 1935 in Red Lodge, the daughter of Laura and "Chubb" Weaver. She attended local schools before enrolling in the School of Journalism. She married Gordon Hunt the same year she earned her bachelor's degree.

The couple had three daughters and a son, who Judy shepherded while also working as a cashier and customer representative at Woolworth's. She liked knitting and sewing period-specific clothes from the 18th and 19th centuries. In her latter years, she volunteered at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

JOHN RICHARD HARRIS SR. M.A. '65, who served as director of photography for the Seattle World's Fair, died Dec. 12, 2016, at his home in Columbia, Maryland. He was 84.

Born in Choteau in March of 1932, he traveled with his family throughout the West. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1952, serving as drill instructor in Cherry Point, North Carolina, where he met his wife, Anna, and learned photography.

The couple and their young son moved to Missoula, where he received a master's in photojournalism and started a photo business. The family later moved to Seattle, where he was director of photography for the World's Fair, and then to Vista, California, where he taught photojournalism. They eventually moved again to Rochester, N.Y., where he became an advertising account representative for Kodak. He followed the company to the New York City area before starting his own firm. He and his wife then moved to Virginia before retiring in Maryland.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

TODD ALAN BRANDOFF '66, who received the Purple Heart after his Army helicopter was shot down in Vietnam, died March 25, 2017, in Missoula. He was 74.

According to *The Missoulian*, he was born in 1942 in Freeport, New York. By age 16, he was working as a salvage diver off Long Island. After high school, he made his way to UM, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1966. Along the way, he completed the ROTC program, joined the skydiving club and worked as a Lolo Hotshot firefighter. He also worked as a fire lookout in Eagle, Alaska.

In 1967, he married Kerry Lynn Hartwig in Dallas, Texas, and graduated from the U.S. Army's helicopter schools in Fort Wolters, Texas, and Fort Rucker, Alabama. He was soon deployed to Vietnam, where he flew for the 118th Assault Helicopter Company until his helicopter was shot down. Severely wounded, he underwent a long recuperation before completing his service as a company commander in Fort Lewis, Washington.

In 1971, the couple moved to Missoula, where Todd worked as a sawyer and ran a sawmill before becoming a director of Lolo Sewer and Water. He also served on the boards of the Missoula International Friendship Program and the Good Food Store, and advised the Missoula Refugee Assistance Corporation.

In 1988, he joined other Vietnam vets who met with Soviet veterans of Afghanistan. In 1991, he went to Baghdad, Iraq, with the Gulf Peace Team. He and Kerry traveled extensively, roving as far as Kazakhstan and the U.K. He loved art and classic cars, and enjoyed playing host to international students and collecting fluorescent rocks.

GENE RICHARD SPEELMAN '67, a longtime sports reporter who covered Flathead-area athletics, died Nov. 8., 2016, at his home in Evergreen. He was 72.

He was born to Dutch immigrants in Bozeman in 1943. Four years later, the family moved to Kalispell, where Gene graduated from Flathead High School. He received his bachelor's degree in journalism from UM in 1967.

He reported for *The Montana Standard* until 1969, when he returned to Kalispell and took over his father's beekeeping business, Evergreen Apiaries, which he ran until 1994. He spent much of his extra time covering Flathead-area sports for *The Missoulian* and *The Daily Inter Lake*.

Gene enjoyed golf, writing letters to the editor, the company of friends and tracking all things related to sports.

GEORGIANNA TAYLOR '68, who worked for newspapers ranging from Montana's Hi-Line to the Bitterroot Valley, died Oct. 24, 2016.

She was born in 1938 in South Dakota but was raised in Conrad and Cut Bank. She graduated from Cut Bank High School in 1956 and enrolled at UM. She married John Kavanagh in 1959 and they had two children, Brian and Barb, but later divorced. She completed her journalism degree at UM in 1968.

She worked for *The Shelby Promoter*, *The Cut Bank Pioneer Press* and *The Missoulian*.

She later married Alan R. Taylor. The pair raised their families in Missoula and Fort Collins, Colorado, where she worked for *The Coloradoan* as a sports reporter, feature writer and columnist. She returned to Montana, settling in Hamilton, and resumed working for *The Missoulian*, where she co-wrote the popular "Dirty Fingernails" gardening column with Molly Hackett for many years. She and Hackett co-wrote two books: "The Compleat Gardener" and "A Year in the Garden."

Beyond her role as a mother and grandmother, she enjoyed sewing quilts, volunteering for Hospice and Habitat for Humanity, and collecting hedgehog memorabilia from around the world.

LEON LENZ '74, a longtime copy editor for *The Great Falls Tribune* and an exceptional competitor at Trivial Pursuit, died Feb. 12, 2017, after battling cancer and related surgical complications. He was 64.

According to *The Great Falls Tribune*, Leon was born Feb. 29, 1952, in Brady, Montana. Leon graduated from Brady High School in 1970 and earned a jour-

nalism degree with an emphasis in radio from the University of Montana four years later. He worked briefly for a radio station before beginning his career at the *Tribune* in 1975.

He began as a reporter, covering city government and other beats, but joined the paper's copydesk in the early 1980s. He saw the paper through the daily editing and production process. Although the job occasionally extended into the morning hours, he said he preferred those late shifts.

Leon was known for his high editing standards, his wit and the cardigans he almost always wore. He was well-read and carried a broad understanding of the news. His eye for detail, including missing details, was famous in the newsroom, and he taught many young reporters about the demands of accuracy and fairness, along with the rudiments of grammar, spelling and style. He was in charge of the *Tribune's* "A" section in his last years.

He retired in 2010, but remained a great reader and wrote essays on a range of topics that included the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He liked traveling, and peach pies on his birthday. His knowledge of current events and history also made him a Trivial Pursuit competitor to be reckoned with.

Leon was known for small kindnesses and for his dry, unexpected humor. He kept in touch with his former *Tribune* colleagues and was good about sending notes and small gifts on their birthdays.

RITA C. MUNZENRIDER '83, a reporter, editor and spokesperson for UM, died unexpectedly in Santa Fe, N.M., on May 14, 2017. She was 57.

According to *The Missoulian*, she was born in Helena in 1960, one of eight children. She graduated from Helena High School in 1978 and enrolled in the School of Journalism at UM.

Following graduation, she worked briefly for *The Helena Independent Record* before joining *The Billings Gazette*, where she covered the justice beat for 10 years. In 1994, she joined UM's University Relations staff, rising to become the department's director by 2001.

During that time, Rita's team won

many regional and national awards for publications and creative marketing. She also served in the President's Cabinet and raised funds for UM. Rita represented UM in the city's annual Heart Walk fundraiser, was a board member for A Carousel for Missoula and helped launch UM's Easter Eggstravaganza egg hunt.

After losing her brother Steven to AIDS, she became an activist for AIDS awareness and served on the Missoula AIDS Council. She helped bring the Names Project AIDS Quilt to UM, which included her brother's panel. She was also appointed by Gov. Marc Racicot to a four-year term on the Governor's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council.

Rita was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008 and underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatment. This March marked her eighth year as cancer free. Unfortunately, she experienced severe neuropathy in her legs due to her original treatment and was unable to return to work full time. She worked part time at University Relations until 2011.

Rita moved to Santa Fe in 2014 to be near her sister Claire and enjoy a warmer climate. She is survived by Claire and siblings Joe Munzenrider of Helena; Bob Munzenrider and wife, Mary, of Scottsdale, Arizona; Rosie (Munzenrider) and husband, Vince Buzzas, of Missoula; and Jim Munzenrider and his wife, Debi, of San Mateo, California.

MICHAEL CHARLES FELLOWS

'88, an eight-time Montana candidate for Congress and longtime chairman of the state's Libertarian Party, died Sept. 19, 2016. He was 59 and campaigning for the U.S. House when he was killed in a car crash.

Fellows, who ran unsuccessfully for statewide office in every Montana election since 1998, ran his last race against the Republican incumbent, U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, now Secretary of the Interior, and Democratic nominee Denise Juneau.

Fellows became a pillar of Montana's Libertarian Party in 1982 and served as its chairman for at least 20 years. His fellow Libertarians credited him with almost single-handedly keeping the party

on Montana's ballot over that time.

He was born in Lewiston, Idaho, in 1957, and graduated from Havre High School in 1976. He received an associate's degree from the College of Great Falls before earning a bachelor's in radio and television from UM.

He worked as a freelance producer for public television in Missoula, and for many years at the city's Hillside Manor group home. He was also active in the American Legion.

Besides his eight campaigns for U.S. House, Fellows ran for secretary of state and Montana Supreme Court clerk. He advocated for less government and elimination of the income tax.

DANIELLE DELLERSON HAYES

'02, who worked as a legal editor for Bloomberg before becoming a vice president of a federal public affairs firm, died June 22, 2017, of a rare form of bile duct cancer. She was 37.

A standout student journalist, she covered both 9/11 and the murder of a classmate in her senior year. She worked in Missoula and Spokane media for a couple of years before enrolling in UM's law school, graduating in 2007.

She clerked for a federal judge in Missoula before moving to Washington, D.C., as junior counsel on the U.S. Senate Finance Committee. She eventually became legal editor for Bloomberg. At the time of her death, she was vice president of a federal public affairs firm that specialized in timber tax policy.

Danielle also raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for research into her form of cancer.

She is survived by her husband, James, and his daughter Emma.

JOHN ROMAN NOWAKOWSKI

'05, a Missoula attorney and one of three brothers to earn degrees from the J-School, died Dec. 8, 2016, of a heart condition. He was 36.

He and his twin brother, Joe '08, were born in 1980. Raised mostly by their mother, they lived in many places before settling in Livingston, Montana, where John graduated from Park County High School. He followed older brother Peter

Nowakowski '03 to UM, where he majored in many subjects before switching to journalism.

A baker, musician and "hacky sack" aficionado, John worked briefly as a reporter before deciding to attend law school at the University of Tulsa. He later returned to Montana, where he passed the bar exam and began working as a public defender, first in Butte and later in Missoula.

His sister-in-law, Sonja Lee Nowakowski '98, described him as "a softy through and through who failed miserably at being a grouch."

ETHAN WADE ROBINSON '07,

a first-rate copy editor with a dry wit and lifelong love for the San Francisco Giants, died Feb. 27, 2017, of complications of Marfan Syndrome. He was 36.

He was born in Crow Agency on June 7, 1980. An enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne Nation in Montana, Ethan spent his early years between Muddy Creek and Northern California. His Cheyenne name is Mō'énéstoohe (Whistling Elk). Ethan was a child of the Kit Fox Warrior Society. He learned early the ceremonial way of the Northern Cheyenne.

He attended high school in Kelseyville, California, and Colstrip, and received his bachelor's degree in journalism from the J-School in 2007. Ethan worked as a copy editor at the *Montana Kaimin*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Napa Valley Register*, *The Weekly Calistogan* and several other papers. In the last year of his life, he chose a career in social services.

Ethan was passionate about film, music and literature. He loved to read and wrote an unpublished novel at age 25. Ethan and his sister Amber appeared as extras in the 2015 film "Steve Jobs."

As a contributing member of the Democratic Party, Ethan considered his attendance at President Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration to be one of the highlights of his life. He was an ardent San Francisco Giants fan and loved to attend their games with family and friends.

Prestigious visitors, special events at the J-School



Alyssa Rabil

New York Times reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones speaks to listeners after her Dean Stone Lecture in April about the ongoing racism she has covered in America's public schools.



Todd Goodrich/UM photo

Washington Post reporter David Fahrenthold tells students about his Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of then-presidential candidate Donald Trump's charitable giving claims during the 2016 campaign.



Todd Goodrich/UM photo

Professor Denise Dowling shows Montana high school students how to operate control room features in the school's first-floor TV facility.

1950s

Ann Thomson Beaman '55 recently went on a ski trip to Japan, which included a side excursion to Hong Kong. She wrote that she enjoyed the Japanese people, their transportation system and their technologically advanced toilets. The skiing was good too, she added.

James D. Tutwiler '55 published a book this spring titled "Vietnam: Two Doors—No Opening," published by Green Ivy Publishing of Chicago. The book documents the author's experience as a wartime military adviser, which began with him living in a bamboo, rat-infested hut and ended with his service to the war's top U.S. military commander, General William C. Westmoreland, as a briefing officer on daily combat operations through early 1967.

Norma Beatty Ashby '57 helped the Capital Campaign Committee for the Great Falls Rescue Mission's Cameron Family Center raise \$9 million. The center serves homeless families in north central Montana. She also brought UM journalism Dean Larry Abramson to Great Falls to talk about coverage of the 2016 presidential campaign. She is planning the premiere of a MontanaPBS documentary, "C.M. Russell & the American West," scheduled to debut in September.

Cliff Hopkins '58 is blogging from the French countryside. He reports that his journalistic forays in nearly every genre may have tanked, but living in France "more than makes up for any of life's setbacks." He once worked at KGVO and would like to hear from his fellow announcers and classmates. His blog is <https://frommyperch.wordpress.com>.

1960s

On Memorial Day, **Doug Kienitz '62**, a retired U.S. Navy commander, participated in the annual ceremony at the

Georgetown-Williamson County Veterans Memorial Plaza in Georgetown, Texas. He has been involved with the plaza from its conception to its dedication in 2003. He is also a past commander of the local chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

John J. Schulz '62, Distinguished Alumnus '95, chairs the Eastern Shore Rural Health Association Board. ESRH has five medical centers on Virginia's Eastern Shore. He's now editor of *The Intake*, the official journal of the Super Sabre Society, preserving the history, heroism and humor of F-100 pilots. John retired in 2008 after serving as dean of Boston University's College of Communications.

Suzanne Lintz Ives '63 lives in Palm Desert, California, where she applies her public relations experience by serving on the Sun City Palm Desert Marketing Committee. She continues to publish opinion pieces in the local newspaper and pursue freelance writing. She is working on a book that is temporarily titled "The Bathroom Book for Ladies Who Seek to be Amused."

Joe Hoppel '65 is a freelancer after four decades as a proud "ink-stained wretch" at the *Omaha World-Herald*, *Billings Gazette*, *Denver Post*, *Kansas City Star* and *The Sporting News*. Hoppel lives in St. Louis and writes that he is forever inspired by the standards set by Nathan Blumberg, Warren Brier, Dean Rea, Ed Dugan and Dorothy Johnson (among others).

Carl Gidlund '67 has been a radio newsman; a writer for the *Anchorage Times*, *Spokesman-Review*, *Smokejumper Magazine* and a number of in-flight magazines; editor of the *Tundra Times*; and a public relations officer for a variety of agencies including the Executive Office of the President; the U.S. Department Health, Education and Welfare; the U.S. Forest Service; the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Air Force.

John Dewildt '68 is retired and living in the Sierra Nevada foothills of Northern

California. He was in the dental supply and equipment business for 40 years. His wife of 48 years, UM graduate Cheryl (Kovack), worked in human resources for Sutter Hospitals.

Jim Eggensperger '69 retired in May after 17 years of teaching journalism and mass communication at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y. He and his wife, Lydia, moved to Georgia to be near family. He says he will continue part-time teaching and finish a textbook on research in public relations that is scheduled for publication in November.

1970s

Schooled at UM and the University of North Carolina, **Ken Berry '70** became the CEO at Trade Publishing Company. A veteran publisher of *MidWeek* on Oahu and *West Hawaii Today* on the Big Island, Berry, with his background in journalism and new media, has benefited Trade, Hawaii's leading publisher of professional magazines and directories.

Ken Dunham '70 continues as executive director of the West Coast Lumber & Building Material Association, a 100-year-old industry group for the retail lumber industry and its suppliers. One of his current projects is writing a history of the West's lumber industry. He continues to manage government affairs matters for the industry on the state and federal levels, and stays active in community, church and UM alumni projects.

John C. Shook '70 earned a First Class FCC license after graduating from the J-School. That fall he was hired by a new PBS station in Knoxville, Tennessee. Although he retired from that station 43 years later, he still works there part time. When he's not working, he enjoys living near the Smoky Mountains and adding radios to his collection.

F. James Greco '71 is completing his fourth novel, a process extended by pleasant weekly sessions with a first grandchild,

Alums share in team Pulitzer for fire coverage

Two journalism alums, **Sam Richards '83** and **Tor Haugen '11**, graduated 28 years apart but shared in the *East Bay (California) Times'* Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of Oakland's deadly "Ghost Ship" warehouse fire.

Thirty-six people died in the fire, which prompted several investigations.

Haugen, a video editor for the Bay Area News Group (BANG), was the video team coordinator, overseeing the production of videos about the warehouse fire, starting the day after the blaze. He wrote and produced breaking-news videos, co-produced the video package that went with the news group's Dec. 11 story about the last hours of the Ghost Ship, and produced and wrote follow-up videos, including the exclusive about how the owners had known about the dangerous electrical system. He has been with BANG since 2012.

Richards is usually city hall/general assignment reporter with the *East Bay Times* in Walnut Creek but worked an editing shift the Saturday morning after the fire. He spent seven hours that day handling feeds from reporters to update the main fire story on the *East Bay Times* and *Mercury News* websites. He also did the lead editing for the online first-day story about how family and friends of fire



Sam Richards '83 and Tor Haugen '11

victims were awaiting word on the fate of loved ones.

He switched to reporting that night, interviewing family members of people missing after the fire, and witnesses to the blaze, contributing to both main print stories the next day. Richards has been with Bay Area News Group's companies since 1992.

editing technical documents, volunteering on a committee to revitalize community landscape guidelines and "conducting honey dos." He retired as an attorney and land planner in 2010.

Bob Anez '75 retired from journalism in 2005 after 30 years as a reporter and editor in Montana, including 24 years with The Associated Press in Helena. After leaving AP as the statehouse reporter, he was communications director for the Montana Department of Corrections for almost eight years, retiring from that position in June 2013. Now he pursues such interests as reading, photography, golf, boating and the art of learning to relax without deadlines.

Dale Faulken '75 is retired and living in England—or on his olive farm in southern Spain. Sometimes he lends a hand there at his friend's tapas bar, Sidrería La Viña, in Ronda, Málaga. He's offering a free tapa for J-School grads—if he happens to be in the bar, or if the owner, Paco, likes your face.

Steven Helmbrecht '75 earned his master/craftsman degree from the Professional

Photographers of America in 2007. He has been photographing clients on the Hi-Line at his Havre studio since he bought his father's business in 1983. Steve has three children: Keegan of Berkeley, California, and Anders and Jade, who live in Brooklyn, New York.

Michael Roney '75 is living in Jersey City, New Jersey, where he is married with two daughters and three grandkids. For 30 years, he was an acquisitions editor for several book publishing houses and contributed to technology magazines. Since 2006 he has run a boutique book publishing firm, Highpoint Executive Publishing. He also writes for Forbes, Nokia and other clients.

Peter Johnson '76 left *The Great Falls Tribune* in early May after a career of nearly 40 years. He covered local and state government and politics, education, the military and



business. He says he will now do some volunteering as well as hike, ski and golf more. He also plans to travel with his wife, Carol Potera.

Tony Hadley '77 is senior vice president of global public policy for UK-based Experian Group. Hadley is based in Washington, D.C., where he manages his team's engagement with government officials in countries where the company provides data and analytic services to financial, healthcare, retail, media and technology industries.

Jonathan Krim '77 has happily retired from daily journalism after nearly 40 years. He is living in the Bay Area, and in a fit of madness is trying to write a novel.

Bill Cook '78 and his wife, Marti, live in Helena, where Bill is a bear awareness trainer and does freelance writing on wildlife and outdoor topics.

1980s

Susan Cuff '81 has left the University of

Montana Alumni Relations office after nearly 11 years as associate director. She is now operations coordinator at Make-A-Wish Montana, helping to grant wishes to Montana children with life-threatening illnesses. She also is finishing a series of children's stories and hunting for a publisher.

Pauline Ranieri '82 recently celebrated her 25th anniversary as the director of the alumni travel program for the University of Washington Alumni Association. UW Alumni Tours sends UW alums and friends on more than 40 group tours around the world. Pauline lives in Seattle, but says she misses Montana and Missoula.

Marlee Miller '85 is in her eighth year as COO of M+R in Washington, D.C., a public affairs consulting firm with nine offices, including ones in Missoula and Helena. All of M+R's clients are nonprofits working to protect national parks and monuments, civil rights, the environment, affordable health care, immigrant rights and more.

John Engen '88 is the longest-serving mayor of Missoula, where he and his team completed the purchase of the city's water system from a private company, ending a seven-year battle to bring the utility into public ownership. He's running for a fourth term.



Scott Sloan '88 is owner and president of Market Vision Advertising Agency in Spokane. His regional firm helps businesses advertise with modern technologies. He is also part owner of Coeur D'Alene Window Co., a manufacturing plant that sells windows.

Beth McLaughlin '90 and Kevin McRae '88 live in Helena, where they try keep up with their teenage daughters,

Clara and Eliza. Beth works as court administrator for the Montana Supreme Court, and Kevin for the university system. Their days still begin with the thud of a newspaper hitting the front door.

1990s

Guy DeSantis '92 works in internal communications for TransCanada Corporation in Calgary, Alberta. He's married and has two busy teenagers.

Gina Boysun '93 is assistant managing editor for digital news at *The Spokesman-Review*, where she has worked for almost 25 years. She enjoys creating and using digital tools to help tell the stories of the Spokane community, including that of a little basketball team called Gonzaga.

Jim Sanders '95 has been with KPAX Television for 23 years, serving mostly as a commercial producer. Recently, he was promoted to production manager. Jim lives in Missoula with his wife of 29 years, Tonya, and their son Logan, 16, and daughter Ashton, 9.

Lee van der Voo '96 (formerly Lee Douglas) is an independent journalist based in Portland, Oregon, where she focuses on enterprise and investigative journalism. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *High Country News*, *Slate*, *The Atlantic* and other publications. She is managing director of InvestigateWest, a Seattle- and Portland-based nonprofit journalism studio. She was a 2013 Alicia Patterson Foundation fellow, covering seafood policy and economics. She wrote "The Fish Market: Inside the Big-Money Battle for the Ocean and Your Dinner Plate" published by Palgrave/St. Martin's Press. The book tells the story of the people and places left behind in a new era of ocean privatization that now controls more than half of American seafood.

Bjorn van der Voo '96, Lee's spouse, lives in Portland, Oregon, where he works as

a digital manager specializing in website management, content marketing, SEO ranking and graphics. He worked in publishing for 10 years as ad and web production manager for Mediamerica Inc., magazine and website publisher of *Oregon Business* and *Oregon Home*. His work has evolved into web strategies for a broad range of clients focusing on webmaster services, digital marketing, project management and print publishing.

Patricia Snyder '96 works as a talent development specialist in WorkSource Oregon's Grants Pass office. She helps people find jobs and build skills for new careers. She teaches classes in computer software and employment skills such as emotional intelligence.

Frank Field '97 is a technical community manager for Ninetex, a software company in Bellevue, Washington. Before taking the job, he worked for *Northwest Runner* magazine. He worked previously for television stations in Seattle, Cincinnati, Boston and Tucson.

Carson Porter '99 is a film and video editor in San Francisco, specializing in commercials and documentaries. He recently had two short docs entered in the San Francisco Film Festival and a third in the TriBeCa Film Festival. He says his crowning achievement remains the "vulgar re-edit" of "The Big Lebowski" he cut more than 10 years ago.

Travis McAdam '99 has returned to the Montana Human Rights Network to serve as research director. McAdam previously served in this position with the nonprofit, along with a stint as its executive director. He is a nationally recognized expert on anti-democratic movements, especially militia and white supremacist groups.

2000s

After a stint as a wedding photographer in her native London, UK, **Charlotte "Ginger" DiNunzio (nee Rushton) '00**

has been living on California's central coast for 10 years. She runs a boutique photo studio called Sandprints, which specializes in photojournalistic portraits on location.

In September 2016, **Sam DeWitt '01** married Rebecca Sunshine in his beloved Colorado mountains. They live with their dog, Missoula, in Denver. Sam serves as the director of communications for the Colorado Health Care Association.

Anthony Zuccarini '01 works with the Missouri Office of Administration's website team. He's worked for 12 years with Missouri's state government.

Nathaniel Cerf M.A. '03 is the author of "Little Victories," a 2016 novel that exposes the children's mental health system. The publisher calls it a "must read for every student of psychology and social work—and every person concerned about the welfare of the nation's children." He works as a copy writer and still coaches fencing in Chicago's western suburbs.

John Trousdale '03 is president of Animas Media, a social media influencer and marketing agency serving the outdoor industry. He builds partnerships between brands and leading social media influencers. The company also publishes Roam-worthy.com, a community for outdoor enthusiasts.

Aaron Flint '04 left as host of the statewide radio show "Voices of Montana" in October 2015 to join Greg Gianforte's campaign for governor. He was hired in 2016 as Congressman Ryan Zinke's state director just before Zinke was confirmed as U.S. Interior Secretary. Most recently, he was scheduled for overseas military deployment.

Alexandra Van-Fossen Mandell '04, who works in marketing for Opportunity Bank of Montana, was featured this



year in "Women Under the Big Sky." She credits her success to the J-School's professional training and the mentorship of Professor Denise Dowling. "Had it not been for the effort I put in during college, I don't think I would have been prepared to work harder during a time where peers my age were struggling to find employment."

Bryan Haines '04 is a communications consultant with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana in Helena, where he handles internal communications. He is also the race director of the Governor's Cup, held every June in Helena. He and his wife, Tricia, have two boys, Connor, 9, and Spencer, 4.

Joe Friedrichs '05 was appointed news director of WTIP, North Shore Community Radio, in Grand Marais, Minnesota, in April. He also works as a guide up the Gunflint Trail in Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. He lives in a small cabin on the shores of Lake Superior.

Beth Saboe '05 is a news and public affairs producer at MontanaPBS in Bozeman. Last year the station launched a new public affairs documentary series, "The Rundown with Beth Saboe." Its first three episodes, which focused on Colstrip and Montana's 2016 election, were nominated for four NATAS Emmys. Saboe was also nominated for the Montana Broadcasters Association's Broadcaster of the Year award.

Katherine Sather '05 is about to start a new role as an editor on Microsoft's Bing Creative Services team. She works on Bing branded content and initiatives in their Artificial Intelligence department. She lives in Seattle with her husband and two sons: 9-month-old Matthew and 3-year-old William.

Andrea Lutz '06 is the statewide morning news anchor for KULR8 News in Billings. She was recently news director for ABC Fox Montana's KTMF/KWYB in Western Montana. Before that she did on-air work at KTVB in Boise, Idaho.

In the past year, **Kristen Knight Pace '06** finished the 2016 Iditarod Trail 1,000-mile Sled Dog Race, premiered a short documentary at the 2016 TriBeCa Film Festival, and welcomed a daughter, Ada, into the world.

After working several years as a colorist and online editor for Barrett Productions, **Eli Bierwag '07** is now marking his sixth year with Warm Springs Productions, where he works as this Missoula-based company's post production supervisor. He and his wife have three daughters.

Kerry Allen '08 moved to San Francisco after graduation. Today she works as a media director for Disney Theme Parks & Resorts. Her husband, **Eric Allen '08**, is a manager at Pandora Internet Radio.

Brandon Gondeiro '08 is a co-head football coach for the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals, a highly regarded six-man football team created when rival Geraldine and Highwood high schools in central Montana combined teams in 2011. Their unusual story and success has been featured in two documentaries, the most recent appearing on the Viceland cable TV channel. Over the years, the two schools have combined to win 17 Class C 6-Man championships: Highwood 11, Geraldine four and Geraldine-Highwood two.

Samantha Bury '09 recently moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, to start a job as a technical producer for *Western Mass News*.

Allyson Weller Davis '09 is living in Lander, Wyoming, where she is marketing director for a physical therapy company with five clinics in the state. "I'm putting my journalism skills to use making videos as well," she writes. She and her husband spend their free time fixing up a house they recently bought, and traveling to Missoula for Griz games at least three or four times per season.

Kelly Hanson '09 worked for four years at KING 5 in Seattle as the liaison between the sales management and news departments. Her newest venture is called

“Local Lens Seattle,” KING 5’s YouTube Channel, where she is a co-host and executive producer.

2010s

Brooke Andrus ’10, lives in Phoenix where she works at WebPT, a software platform for physical, occupational and speech therapists. She manages the company’s content program, including the WebPT Blog, which was recently named Blog of the Year at the Best in Biz Awards.

Photographer **Greta Rybus ’10** is working on a web series that seeks to “reframe climate change as a human rights issue” at six global locations. So far, stories from Senegal and Panama are live on the site, and one on Norway is in the works. The project is scheduled to be published at CNN, Orion, Stay Wild, Geo and Upworthy, among other websites. She also has a book, “Handcrafted Maine,” coming out in September from Princeton Architectural Press that features 22 profiles of Maine artists, artisans and craftspeople.

Shane Thomas McMillan ’10 is working on a feature-length documentary titled “Our Sisters,” which tells the story of Native American women battling epidemic levels of the violence against them in their communities. The film is inspired by 17-year-old Marita Growing Thunder, who sews individual dresses in memory of missing and murdered indigenous women (#MMIW).

Scott Ranf ’11 oversees youth programs at Missoula Community Access Television, where he inspires children to produce short videos ranging from documentaries to media art programs. He says the job allows him to teach the practical skills he picked up at the J-School, and he hopes some of his young charges will pursue degrees in journalism and broadcasting.

Allison Bye ’14 is leaving *The Bulletin* in Bend, Oregon, after two enjoyable years



Patrick Record ’13 took this photo of the Nenets, the reindeer-herding indigenous people in Russia’s arctic, while on a freelance assignment in Siberia to document their lives. The family is packing up before a migration. Record says it’s common for the Nenets to move as often as every other day in the winter, eventually logging over 1,000 kilometers per year. Record returns to the J-School this fall as an adjunct.

to work for Statehood Media, also in Bend, the publisher of *1859* and other magazines.

Kyle Schmauch ’14 is communications director for State Auditor Matt Rosendale in Helena. Before that, he served as the Kalispell field representative for U.S. Sen. Steve Daines in Kalispell, worked in the Legislature for Rep. Daniel Zolnikov (who carried the first update to Montana’s shield law in years) and on Daines’ U.S. Senate campaign.

Ashley Oppel Myers ’15 is writing a book on tandem nursing. She also has a photography business. She and her husband live in Missoula with “three beautiful boys.”

Joe Lesar ’16 has been working at ABCFox Montana in Missoula since last June. He started part time as a camera/audio operator, then took over as technical director in October. In May, he accepted a full-time position as a news photographer/newscast director. He helps reporters shoot stories during the day and directs the daily 5:30 p.m. ABC newscast.

–30–

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Good journalists use few words. So how can I possibly describe, in this short space, just how important your donations are to the School of Journalism? Your gifts support journalism projects great and small: student trips to Native reservations as part of the Native News Honors Project; visits from nationally known reporters; and of course, scholarships, which help so many students stay focused on the craft of journalism. Private support shows that UM journalism is truly a community effort.

As I write this, 14 of our students are reporting from Japan as part of our Montana Journalism Abroad program. These trips can be life-changing for our students, and result in outstanding journalism. But they are also expensive. Donors helped bring the cost down for our Germany and Japan trips, and we are constantly seeking new resources for future projects. Students are already signing up for our 2018 trip to South Korea. Donor support means students spend less time fundraising and more time reporting.

There's also a chance to get in on our plans to build a media engagement center. This is part of our long-term goal of building a digital lab, where students and working professionals can explore

the growing role of social media in journalism. The center will be funded primarily with private money and will be a collaborative effort with other schools at UM. This is a great chance to help chart the future of the J-School. Donors can also give to our general fund, which supports travel and coverage of breaking stories, like the trips our students made to Standing Rock last fall (coverage that won 10th place in the prestigious Hearst Awards).

Recent gifts to the school highlight the amazing loyalty of our alums. Just last year, we received a generous bequest from an alum who completed our program in 1952. It's incredible to think that, after all these years, the experience of attending our school inspires such devotion. State support for UM fluctuates, as you know, and right now the University is asking every program to cut back. The J-School will do its part, but we must continue to support new ideas, and invest in the tools our faculty need to innovate. Thanks for all you've done. Express yourself, and your support for great journalism, by giving to the J-School.



—Dean Larry Abramson

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